


APRIL 2016

Newsletter of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society
www.norcaltos.org (510) 644-2707
P. O Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Berkeley Community Theatre
1930 Allston Way, Between Milvia Street &
Martin Luther King, Jr. Way



John Lauter in Concert Berkeley Community Theatre

2:30 pm, Sunday April 3

Enter through Stage Door at 1930 Allston Way

NorCal is pleased to welcome John Lauter to the Berkeley Community Theatre! A Detroit native, John has been presenting theatre organ concerts for over 20 years. He made his public debut at the Redford theatre at age 16. Since those early days John has presented concerts in Chicago at the Oriental theatre, VanDerMolen residence studio, Krughoff residence studio, the 19th Hole restaurant and the St. Mary of the Lake Seminary auditorium in Mundelein. John has also been featured in programs at the Paramount Theatre in Denver, the Castro Theatre in San Francisco, the Richard Knight Auditorium of Babson College in Boston, the Organ Stop Pizza restaurant in Phoenix, the Rialto Theatre in Joliet, Illinois, and the Palace Theatre in Marion, Ohio. The Ohio Theatre in Columbus featured John in overtures to their popular classic film series.

John was a featured performer at the American Theatre Organ Society's 1995 and 2009 national conventions. He spent three years playing at "Theatre Organ Pizza and Pipes" in Pontiac, Michigan.

The Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor, Michigan featured John as staff organist for 17 years during which John accompanied such silent film classics as Metropolis, The Birth of a Nation, The Phantom of the Opera, Intolerance, Robin Hood, Greed, The Big Parade, Nosferatu, The Gold Rush, and many others.

The Detroit Fox theatre's 1988 re-opening found John playing before Frank Sinatra, Liza Minnelli, Sammy Davis Jr.: The Ultimate Event! John has played at the Fox ever since for film and live shows.

In February 2010, John was a musical guest on NPR's popular *Prairie Home Companion* radio broadcast. Host Garrison Keillor remarked, "the man (Lauter) has unerring good taste". John performed solos on the live broadcast and joined forces with PHC's "Guys All-Star Shoe Band" for some numbers. The show was performed live before 5,000 people and broadcast live into 4 million homes.

At home in Detroit, John has presented nine concerts at the Detroit Theatre Organ Society and many concerts and silent film programs at the Redford Theatre. He is the organist for the Unity Church of Lake Orion and is also in demand as a pianist at local Detroit restaurants. John lives in Farmington Hills, Michigan with his wife Amy, son Benjamin, and daughter Maryanna.

THIS WILL BE A NORCAL "MEMBERS ONLY" CONCERT.

Members' Admission: \$15.00 on the day of the concert. Members can order their tickets in advance of concert day from Treasurer Neal Wood for \$12.00. (See bottom of last page to contact Neal.)

Concert Special: Join NorCal for \$20.00 and you and your guest will attend the concert as our guest! You will be joining at the "Friend" Level and your year-long membership includes your "partner," if any.

ZACH FRAME CONCERT JANUARY 17

Concert Review by Kevin King

Before our Annual Business Meeting at the Berkeley Community Theatre, we had the pleasure of having Zach Frame from Milwaukee play a wonderful concert for us. Zach is featured organist at Organ Piper Pizza in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Zach seemed to be having a wonderful time at our Wurlitzer that afternoon. He complimented the instrument several times during his concert.

Zach opened his program with "On With The Show" (This Is It) which is the familiar theme from the Warner Brothers - Looney Tunes Cartoons. Zach's program was well played and quite varied in its content. I occasionally feel like some visiting artists take their concert too seriously. They play selections that are over-thought and over-arranged. I end up asking myself, "Where's the fun, where's the variety?" Zach did not fall into this pattern. We had lively, rhythmic numbers, pleasing ballads, and everything in-between.

As examples of the contrast in his programming, we heard *Summertime* (from *Porgy and Bess*), *Washington Post March*, a Star Wars medley, *Bandstand Boogie*, *Baby Elephant Walk*, *Funiculi Funicula*, *That's All*, and more.

My favorite part of the concert was his very musical medley of Duke Ellington selections. Included were *I'm Beginning to See the Light*, *Satin Doll*, *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*, *Caravan*, *In a Sentimental Mood*, *Take the A-Train*, and *It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing*. Zach treated each piece with the proper "Ellington mood" whether slow sultry emotion, or jazzy rhythmic bounce.

Zach's playing showed his comfort with adapting a melody line and improvising where appropriate. He understood the instrument and used the voices with good taste and thoughtfulness. He kept us entertained and the time passed too quickly. The folks back in the Milwaukee area are fortunate to be able to hear Zach on a regular basis. It was a treat to have him visit us here at Berkeley.

Full Play List:

"This Is It!"
 "Zing Went the Strings of My Heart"
 "Soon It's Going to Rain"
 Medley from "*Pirates of the Caribbean*"
 "Summertime"
 "Washington Post March"
 "Somewhere Out There"
 Medley from *Starwars* movies
 INTERMISSION
 "Bandstand Boogie"
 "Baby Elephant Walk"
 "That's All"
 "Funiculi, Funicula"

Duke Ellington Orchestra medley:

"I'm Beginning to See the Light"
 "Satin Doll"
 "Don't Get Around Much Any More"
 "Caravan"
 "In a Sentimental Mood"
 "Take the A Train"
 "It Don't Mean a Thing if it Ain't Got That Swing"

ENCORE

"When the Saints Go Marching In"



Zach Frame

How Did We Find Zach Frame?

Your Editor asked Program chair Gordon Pratt how he found out about Zach Frame with whose name I was not familiar. Gordon explained that on his way home from the Oshkosh Air Show he dropped by Organ Piper Pizza to hear the Wurlitzer theatre organ. Gordon was (for good reason) well impressed and suggested Zach for our annual meeting. *Thank you so much, Gordon!*

NORCAL ANNUAL MEETING

NorCal's annual meeting for 2016 took place immediately after Zach Frame's January 17th concert. Chairman Madsen reported on the past year's events and NorCal's status. He introduced the directors for the year 2016 who are:

Ted Hubbard	Mark Nagel
Kevin King	Roy Powlan
Wayne Joseph	Gordon Pratt
Warren Lubich	Neal Wood
Tom Madsen	

NORCAL OFFICERS FOR 2016

At their February 13 meeting, the NorCal board elected the following officers for the year 2016:

Chairman	Tom Madsen
Vice Chairman.....	Roy Powlan
Treasurer	Neal Wood
Secretary.....	Ted Hubbard

JIM RIGGS INDUCTED INTO NORCAL HALL OF FAME

During the annual meeting on January 17 Jim Riggs was inducted into the NorCal Theatre Organ Society hall of Fame. The presentation was by NorCal Vice Chairman Roy Powlan who has been close friends with Jim since they were 15. Roy told about Jim's theatre organ playing experience and of Jim being mentored in the art by the late Jim Rosevear at the Paramount Theater.



Roy and Jim,

PARAMOUNT THEATRE WURLITZER

During the January 17 annual meeting Organ Crew Chief Bill Schlotter reported that he has been in contact with the Paramount Theatre of the Arts and that their Board of Directors has approved the concept of an organ endowment fund permanently restricted to care and maintenance of the Wurlitzer pipe organ in the theatre.

The instrument now in the theatre is in good condition but one of the pipe chests has received water damage. The console has an electric action but not all of the stop tabs have electro-magnets. The electronic relay has severe problems.

After removal from the theatre, the Paramount's original Wurlitzer organ was installed in a series of three pizza restaurants. The last of these is in Florida and has closed. The owners have arranged for Kenny Crome to broker the instrument.

Over the years the original instrument has been added to and the console has been refinished. The console has been changed to electric stop actions controlled by a Uniflex 2000 relay.

Bill said he plans to make a donation to the Paramount for their use to purchase the complete instrument. The original console and the Uniflex relay would replace the console and relay currently in place. A 16-foot bombard would be added to the solo chamber. The balance of the instrument would be trucked to Adrian Phillips' warehouse in Phoenix, Arizona for storage.

Bill said the Paramount theatre's current technician, Roger Inkpen, would remain in charge of care of the instrument. The NorCal organ crew has agreed to perform chest restoration and similar work in the form of one non-profit donating labor to another non-profit. The work will probably be done at BCT and would serve as training/practice for the NorCal crew.

NEW MEMBERS

NorCal welcomes the following returning member:
Vic Ferrer of San Francisco

CHAIRMAN'S WIND LINE

What a treat to hear Zach Frame in concert at the Annual Business Meeting! We'll look forward to more Midwestern musical talent with John Lauter on April 3. Their theatre organ world is relatively small, and yet we are fortunate to have so many artists, each with own unique approach to music, to keep things fresh and interesting.

A few weeks ago, I was fortunate enough to accompany Ed Stout and Dick Taylor to the California Theatre in San Jose, where they gave a wonderful demonstration of the Wurlitzer in the main house as well as the one in the lobby. The playback of Tom Hazleton in the main house, one of his final performances, was as beautiful as it was emotionally moving. Jerry Nagano on the lobby organ showed just what a 10 rank Wurlitzer is capable of, and let me tell you, it was dynamite. My hat is off to both off to Dick and Ed for these exceptionally fine installations!

As we all know, water is the enemy of pipe organs – and yet has an uncanny way of finding its way into them – so let's all hope our west coast instruments stay dry in the current deluge of rain!

All the best,

Tom Madsen

OPEN CONSOLE SCHEDULE

Chris Nichols will host open console sessions at Berkeley Community Theatre on **April 17th** and **May 15th**, both Sundays. These sessions run from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Enter through the stage door at 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley. These events are a very social open house for NorCal members (both players and listeners) and their guests. Most of those playing are amateurs but some are definitely professionals. Chamber tours are available. Here is a chance for you to play (and/or see and hear up close) one of the best (and biggest) Wurlitzers in the world! Please be sure to call the NorCal answering machine the day of the event at 510-644-2707 to make certain that the event is still on.

CAMERON CARPENTER CONCERT IN SF

By Chris Nichols

Cameron Carpenter played four concerts at the SFJAZZ center in San Francisco on January 28-31. I had been contacted by Lew Williams weeks prior to the concert inquiring if I would like to attend. Having heard Cameron Carpenter play twice before, most recently in January of 2014 at Grace Cathedral, I was definitely interested in doing so. It also turned out that my friend Scott Harrison would be visiting me from Australia when the concerts were being performed, so I got tickets for the three of us.

Lew flew in from Phoenix for the weekend of the concert, and it turns out that he has been friends with Cameron since 2000. He let Cameron know he was coming, and Cameron asked him to

stop by early (5:00) on Saturday afternoon to see the organ. Cameron said that it would be OK if Scott and I came along as well. The concert was to begin at 7:30.

We all met at the theatre, and he showed us the various features of the organ. Acoustically, the room is very dry. Cameron explained the speaker placement to us, played several pieces, then let Lew and Scott try it with the theatre samples. He was a very gracious host and very interested in our opinions of the organ, particularly the theatre voices and tremulant settings.

The hall had provided a buffet for Cameron and his crew, so he invited us to join him for dinner upstairs as the audience arrived. There were the three of us, and another friend who was visiting from Los Angeles. We had a very good time visiting back and forth. Afterwards, Cameron made arrangements for us to receive backstage passes, which allowed us to visit him again at intermission and post-concert at a private reception off the lobby.

The program was excellent and had a little bit of everything in it: Bach, Vierne, transcriptions of works by Wagner, Schubert, and Tchaikovsky, Dupré's *Variations on a Noel*, and a couple of theatre organ arrangements including Cole Porter's *Let's Misbehave*.

During Cameron's demonstration of the organ, Lew had asked him to play the Dupré *Variations*, and though Cameron said that he had not played it in quite a while, he sat down and did a fine job. During the concert, he acknowledged Lew and remarked that he would play the *Variations* for him. Lew remarked that he knew the piece very well, and that Cameron had played it flawlessly.

Cameron's International Touring Organ was built by Marshall and Ogletree. David Ogletree, who had attended the concert and was acknowledged by Cameron during the concert, spoke with us for quite a bit during the reception.

It was a memorable day for me, and as I said, I thoroughly enjoyed the concert and especially enjoyed meeting Cameron Carpenter.

MORTON PIPE ORGAN PROJECT - CALIFORNIA THEATRE, PITTSBURG

The California Theatre's original Robert Morton theatre pipe organ is being brought back to life in its original venue. The crew reports that the pipe chests are all winded. The slave/test console is almost complete for testing the organ. The percussions are all installed and almost all winded. The swell shades (Left & Right) have been winded and the chamber walk-boards are in place.

The next steps will be to check and regulate all wind pressures and blow out dirt and dust from the wind chests. The crew will then install the pipe tie racks and then clean and install the pipes. They will soon install the power supplies and connect up the driver boards. The slave/test console will be moved into the theatre for testing and adjustment. Wind leaks will be adjusted where needed. The final steps will be tuning and tonal work.

This entire project has been operating totally on donations. This is a tax deductible 501(c)3 project. If you would like to

donate, make checks payable to PCSI with notation: Morton Organ Project. Send your donation to:

Pacific Community Services, Inc.
329 Railroad Avenue
Pittsburg, CA 94565
(925) 439-1056

Further information is available from Tom LaFleur at (925) 383-1610. He is Executive Vice President of PCSI. Also, if you would like a tour of the theatre and the Morton Organ Project, call Tom LaFleur at the above number for an appointment.

CLOSING CHORD

We are sad to have to report that long time NorCal member Stuart Snell passed away on January 24, 2016. On Behalf of NorCal, we express our sympathies.

COMING NORCAL EVENTS

Sunday, July 17th, 2:30 pm. David Gray at Berkeley Community Theatre

OTHER COMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 10th, 2:00 pm. David Gray at the Robert Morton theatre pipe organ at Harmony Wynelands Blue Barn, 9291 Harney Lane, Lodi. Advance tickets \$15.00. Send check payable to Sierra Chapter ATOS with self addressed stamped envelope to:

Sierra Chapter, ATOS
PO Box 2017
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2017

Driving directions will be sent along with your tickets.

July 3-8 (Sunday through Friday). ATOS National Convention, Cleveland, Ohio

OTHER VENUES

Grand Lake Theatre - 3/18 Wurlitzer. 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Intermission music played by Warren Lubich or Gordon Pratt (Fridays) & Bob Reichart (Saturdays). (510) 452-3556.

Paramount Theatre - 4/26 Wurlitzer. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of the month at 10:00 am. (510) 465-6400. www.paramounttheatre.com

Stanford Theatre - 3/21 Wurlitzer. 221 University Avenue, Palo Alto. **See their Silent Film Schedule.** The organ is played before and between films by **Dick Taylor, David Hegarty,** or **Jerry Nagano.** (650) 324-3700. stanfordtheatre.org

Palace of the Legion of Honor - 4/63 E. M. Skinner. Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays and Sundays, 4:00 to 4:00 pm. Free after museum admission. **David Hegarty** plays an **Organ Pops Concert** on the first full weekend of each month. Other artists play classical concerts other weekends. (415) 750-3600.

Visalia Fox Theatre - 4/22 Wurlitzer. 300 West Main Street, Visalia. (599) 625-1369.

MEMBERS LOBBY ONLINE

For NorCal members only, there is now a link near the bottom of our website home page to take you to our "Members' Lobby." A password is required in order to view any of the Members' Lobby. Members who need the password should contact Neal Wood. His email and phone number are at the bottom of the last page.

GET YOUR WINDSHEET BY E-MAIL!

Would you like to receive your copy of the Windsheet by email? It will be in full color; it will be wrinkle and tear-free; it will arrive sooner; and you will save NorCal the cost of postage and envelopes. If so, please contact our Membership Chair, Neal Wood nealwood@pacbell.net.

NORCAL RECORDINGS FOR SALE

See the NorCal web site for recordings of our Wurlitzer. They will all be on sale at our next concert or may be ordered from our Treasurer, Neal Wood at nealwood@pacbell.net.



NorCal Theatre Organ Society is a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS). ATOS is dedicated to promoting the tradition of the theatre pipe organ and public understanding and appreciation of the instrument and its music, and shall aid in any way possible the preservation of theatre organs through rehabilitation or instruments and fostering the arts of playing, building, voicing, and maintenance. If you would like to join us, please call or write:

Mr. Neal R. Wood at
(415) 861-7082 or nealwood@pacbell.net
P.O. Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Dues are \$20 for NorCal TOS only. For an additional \$50 you may also join National ATOS (\$70 total) per year for full voting memberships in both NorCal and ATOS as well as your subscription to *Theatre Organ* magazine, the six times a year glossy journal of ATOS. Spouse and children living at home may be included in both NorCal and ATOS memberships. We hope you will join us to help preserve and enjoy these great instruments.

NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY CONTACTS:

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NorCal Web Site. Current & recent past Windsheets in [.pdf](#) format, up-to-date Calendar of Events on line, and list of the CD's available: norcaltos.org